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(54) Title: METAL ION EXCHANGED SOLID MATERIALS AS CATALYSTS FOR THE ARYLATION AND THE SKELETAL ISOMERIZATION OF FATTY ACIDS AND ALKYL ESTERS THEREOF

(57) Abstract: The present invention generally relates to a process for the arylation of unsaturated linear fatty acids and/or alkyl esters thereof to their aryl branched counterparts. Said arylation process comprises contacting said unsaturated linear fatty acids and/or alkyl esters thereof and one or more aromatic compounds with at least one metal ion exchanged solid material catalyst. The invention also relates to various derivatives prepared from the aryl branched fatty acids and/or alkyl esters prepared in accordance with the present invention.

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